

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A display structure comprising:
 - a base;
 - a gripping member extending from the base and movable into a position for receipt and clasping of an article; and
 - a platform member positioned above the base and coupled to the gripping member such that movement of the platform member moves the gripping member into the position for receipt and clasping of the article.
2. The display structure according to claim 1, wherein the gripping member comprises:
 - a shell having a first end and a second end;
 - a shaft positioned within and extending outward from the first end of the shell;
 - a set of gripping prongs attached to the shaft and positioned within the shell; and
 - a spring biasing the shaft and the shell for movement relative to each other.
3. The display structure according to claim 2, wherein movement of the platform member compresses the spring and extends the set of gripping prongs from the second end of the shell for receipt and clasping of the article.
4. The display structure according to claim 2, wherein the shell of the gripping member is attached to the platform member.
5. The display structure according to claim 2, wherein the shaft of the gripping member is attached to the base.

6. The display structure according to claim 2, wherein the set of gripping prongs includes at least two prongs.

7. The display structure according to claim 1, wherein the article is one of a precious stone, a semi-precious stone, and a coin.

8. A display case comprising:

a housing having a base and a peripheral wall extending upward from the base so as to define a cavity having an open end;

a gripping member located within the cavity and extending from the base and movable into a position for receipt and clasping of an article; and

a platform member positioned above the base and coupled to the gripping member such that movement of the platform member moves the gripping member into the position for receipt and clasping of the article.

9. The display case according to claim 8, wherein the gripping member comprises:

a shell having a first end and a second end;

a shaft positioned within and extending outward from the first end of the shell;

a set of gripping prongs attached to the shaft and positioned within the shell; and

a spring biasing the shaft and the shell for movement relative to each other.

10. The display case according to claim 9, wherein movement of the platform member compresses the spring and extends the set of gripping prongs from the second end of the shell for receipt and clasping of the article.

11. The display case according to claim 9, wherein the shell of the gripping member is attached to the platform member.

12. The display case according to claim 9, wherein the shaft of the gripping member is attached to the base.

13. The display case according to claim 9, wherein the set of gripping prongs includes at least two prongs.

14. The display case according to claim 8, wherein the platform member is located within the cavity.

15. The display case according to claim 8, wherein the gripping member extends upward from the base toward the open end of the cavity.

16. The display case according to claim 8, further comprising a cover covering the open end of the cavity.

17. The display case according to claim 16, wherein the cover is pivotally attached to the peripheral wall of the housing.

18. The display case according to claim 16, wherein the cover is attached to the housing by a hinge.

19. The display case according to claim 16, wherein the cover includes a portal providing visual access to the cavity.

20. The display case according to claim 19, wherein the portal includes a lens for magnifying the contents of the display case.

21. The display case according to claim 8, further comprising a pocket attached to the housing.

22. The display case according to claim 21, wherein the pocket is dimensioned to hold a card.

23. The display case according to claim 21, wherein the pocket is located on an external surface of the housing.

24. The display case according to claim 8, wherein the article is one of a precious stone, a semi-precious stone, and a coin.

25. A display case comprising:

a housing having a base and a peripheral wall extending upward from the base so as to define a cavity having an open end;

a gripping member located within the cavity and extending from the base toward the open end of the cavity, the gripping member being movable into a position for receipt and clasping of an article;

a platform member located within the cavity and positioned above the base, the platform member being coupled to the gripping member such that movement of the platform member moves the gripping member into the position for receipt and clasping of the article;

a cover pivotally attached to the housing for covering the open end of the cavity, the cover including a portal having a lens that provides magnified visual access to the cavity; and

a pocket attached to the peripheral wall of the housing.

26. The display case according to claim 25, wherein the gripping member comprises:

a shell having a first end and a second end;

a shaft positioned within and extending outward from the first end of the shell;

a set of gripping prongs attached to the shaft and positioned within the shell; and

a spring biasing the shaft and the shell for movement relative to each other.

27. The display case according to claim 26, wherein movement of the platform member compresses the spring and extends the set of gripping prongs from the second end of the shell for receipt and clasp of the article.

28. The display case according to claim 26, wherein the shell of the gripping member is attached to the platform member.

29. The display case according to claim 26, wherein the shaft of the gripping member is attached to the base.

30. The display case according to claim 26, wherein the set of gripping prongs includes at least two prongs.

31. The display case according to claim 25, wherein the cover is attached to the housing by a hinge.

32. The display case according to claim 25, wherein the pocket is dimensioned to hold a card.

33. The display case according to claim 25, wherein the pocket is located on an external surface of the housing.

34. The display case according to claim 25, wherein the article is one of a precious stone, a semi-precious stone, and a coin.

35. A display structure comprising:

a base;

at least one gripping member extending from the base and movable into a position for receipt and clasping of an article; and

at least one platform member positioned above the base and coupled to the at least one gripping member such that movement of the at least one platform member moves the at least one gripping member into the position for receipt and clasping of the article.